

Message Text

SECRET

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EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1
TAGS: MARR, MU, UK, US
SUBJECT: BRITISH ARRANGEMENTS FOR USE OF MASIRAH

1. IN CONVERSATIONS WITH EMBOFF THIS WEEK, OFFICERS AT
DESK LEVEL IN BOTH FCO AND MOD HAVE INDICATED RAF WOULD
LIKE TO CONTINUE TO USE MASIRAH FOR STAGING FLIGHTS TO
EAST ASIA EVEN AFTER RAF FORMALLY WITHDRAWS NEXT
MARCH 31. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO FCO, OMANIS ARE
PRESSING BRITISH TO BE AS GENEROUS AS POSSIBLE ON AMOUNT
OF EQUIPMENT RAF WILL LEAVE IN MASIRAH.

2. COMMENT: FACT THAT RAF HOPES TO CONTINUE TO USE
MASIRAH MIGHT MEAN WE COULD EXPECT CONTINUED HELPFUL
BRITISH PARTICIPATION IN MAINTAINING ADEQUATE LEVEL OF
TECHNICAL SERVICES FOR AIRFIELD. HOWEVER, TIME IS
GROWING SHORT AND EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT WASHINGTON
SEND INSTRUCTIONS SOON IF WE ARE TO UNDERTAKE ANY
DISCUSSIONS WITH BRITISH ON CONTINUED U.S. USE.

SPIERS

SECRET

NNN

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